

REMARKS

The Information Disclosure Statement filed February 25, 2004 has not been considered. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement provides English language abstracts of the earlier cited references, along with newly cited references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge and consider same.

The specification has been objected to due to informalities. The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's proposal.

The drawings have been objected to as failing to show every feature of the claimed invention. The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error by replacing "second bearing" with "first bearing" on page 4 of the disclosure. As a result of the amendment, the drawings do not require any revisions as the features of the claimed invention are now fully disclosed.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Chamings. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Chamings discloses a seatbelt force sensor having a sliding plate 26. Contrary to statements made by the Examiner, the sliding plate 26 does not act as a measuring spring. Rather, Chamings discloses providing a separate measuring spring 266 which is received within the sliding plate 26 (See, Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-22). Hence, measuring spring 266 and sliding plate 26 are different elements.

Additionally, Chamings does not disclose attaching the sensor 230 to the measuring spring 266 (nor does it show attaching the sensor 230 to the sliding plate 26). Rather, the sensor is attached to the housing elements 22 and 24. Since these elements are rigidly connected to the vehicle (See, col. 2, lines 5-9), the sensor 230 is also positioned in fixed relation to the vehicle. This arrangement of the sensor facilitates connecting the input and output of the sensor to a controlling device. The relative movement of the seatbelt-force-sensor takes place between the sliding plate 26

and the hosing elements 22 and 24. Due to this movement, the magnet 252 which is connected to the measuring spring is moved with respect to the sensor.

The claimed invention, on the other hand, discloses a sensor element arranged on the measuring spring and the detector. As a result, the sensor and detector move with the elongation of the measuring spring. In Chamings, only the sensor moves with the elongation of the measuring spring. The claimed invention (for example, claim 1) requires "the measuring spring being arranged and formed such that it expands between the first and second bearing as a function of the belt force." As the sensor and detector are arranged on the measuring spring, it follows that both the sensor and detector move.

Since the recited structure is not disclosed by the applied prior art, claim 1 is patentable. Claims 2-6, depending either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are similarly patentable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.449122062600.

However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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